

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in response to the Office action mailed on 17 July 2007. Claims 1-2, 4-16 and 18-25 are pending in the application with claims 19-24 currently withdrawn. In view of the foregoing amendments, as well as the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in complete condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application in this regard.

Claims 12-16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The Office Action asserts that “[i]t is unclear from the claim whether the ‘direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the binding strip’ applies to the direction of feed for the sheet of paper or the direction of the fold line of the binding strip.” (Office Action page 2).

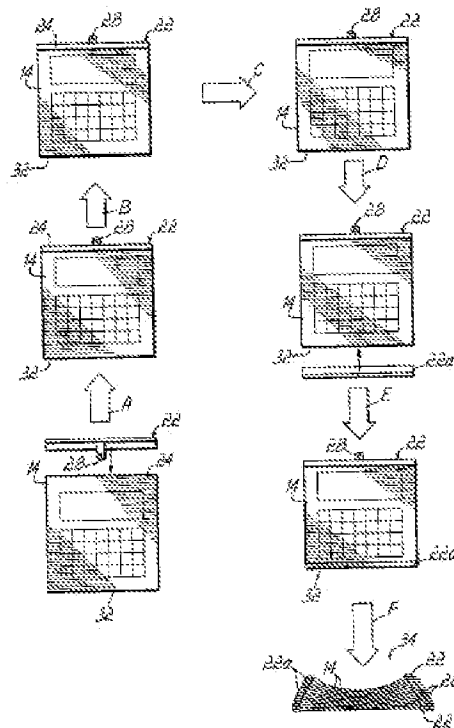
The presently amended claim 12 more clearly and distinctly recites that the longitudinal axis is that of the binding strip. The sheet of paper is fed in the same direction as defined by the fold line and longitudinal axis of the binding strip. Applicants submit the amended claim 12 and urge that the newly amended version complies with §112.

Claims 12-16 and 18, of which claim 12 is independent, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0164230A1 to Hoffman (hereinafter “Hoffman”). The Office Action asserts:

Hoffman discloses an apparatus for binding a sheet of paper, which includes: a feed means 20 for feeding an end 24 of the sheet of paper 14 to be bound into a partially folded binding strip 22 which defines a longitudinal axis, the folded binding strip having two portions angularly disposed to each other about a fold line...in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the binding strip (the fold line being in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the binding strip). (page 3).

Applicants respectfully disagree with this statement and assert that Hoffman fails to teach or suggest the feeding of a sheet of paper in a direction parallel to a longitudinal axis, where the longitudinal axis is defined by a fold in the binding strip.

Hoffman FIG. 2, reproduced below for convenience, illustrates the movement of workpiece 14 into slide 22 by arrow A and into the tinning machine 16 on the conveyor 26. (Hoffman ¶0029). This FIG. 2, cited in the Office Action, explicitly indicates that the multiple edges 24 of a workpiece 14 moving orthogonal into the binding strip fold line (i.e. the longitudinal axis) according to the unnumbered arrow aside tab 28. (Hoffman ¶0020). That is, the direction of the movement of the sheet of paper within Hoffman FIG. 2 is ninety degrees perpendicular to the direction claimed by the Applicants. Indeed, the Office Action asserts under its §103 rejection of the claims of the present application that Hoffman teaches a paper feed direction with the “paper being fed in a feed direction that is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the binding strip.” (Office Action page 5). It must then follow that Hoffman does not anticipate Applicant’s claim 12.



Therefore, Applicant’s respectfully urge that claim 12 be found in compliance with §102. Moreover, because claims 13-16 and 18 depend upon claim 12, and further as each of these claims recites a combination of elements not taught or suggested in Hoffman,

Applicant's further submit that these claims are allowable as well.

Claims 1-8, 10, and 11, of which claim 1 is independent, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0021951A1 to Debrunner et al. (hereinafter "Debrunner").

The Office Action asserts that "Hoffman does not disclose that the sheet of paper is fed in a feed direction that is parallel to the longitudinal axis...Debrunner et al. teaches a method of binding in which a sheet of paper 3 is fed in a feed direction that is parallel to the longitudinal axis..." (Office Action page 5). Applicants believe this statement to be incorrect.

Figure 1 of Debrunner illustrates a book block upon a transport device. The book block 3 was previously processed and provided with glue in the back gluing machine (Debrunner ¶0022). Thus, as illustrated in Figure 1, the binding strip 8 previously aligned to the spine 5 of the book block, wherein the binding strip 8 can be supplied as a section of web rolled in a transverse, or same, direction to transport direction F (Debrunner ¶0022). This book block and its glued components move, in unison, in the arrow direction F to a pressing path (Debrunner ¶0027). As such, Debrunner does not teach a method of feeding a sheet of paper into a binder strip in the longitudinal direction. Quite conversely, Debrunner teaches a previously aligned book block 3 with the cover 10, book spine 5, and the flanks 7 moving as a unit from a transport device 1 to a pressing device 9 for further processing.

Additionally, the bookbinding and gluing means taught in Debrunner are not compatible with the amended claim 1 and the teachings of Applicants' specification of binding a sheet of paper including the steps of crimping and folding. As more clearly illustrated in Applicants' FIGS. 1-3, the binding means creates a bond where the end 38 of a calendar 32 is placed within the two portions angularly disposed of the binding strip 34 followed by first the subsequent folding of the binding strip 36 then the calendar 32 along with the binding strip 36 such that the length of the calendar 32 is shortened. (Applicants' Specification p. 7.) This manner of binding the calendar 32 with the binding strip 36 cannot be equated to the gluing of a book block to a cover and spine as described in Debrunner where the overall length of the book pages is not reduced. This feature of Applicants' invention is recited in new claim 25.

Moreover, Debrunner does not teach a means of binding as in claim 1 because Debrunner would not enable the binding embodiment in FIG. 2. Within FIG. 2, Applicants' show a looped or curved 76 calendar 70 being fed into two partially folded bind strips (78 and 80) in reciprocating securing mechanisms 60 and 62. Debrunner merely permits the glue binding of one side alone of a book block, not two, and does not include the ability to curve the book block pages.

Applicants further urge that there is no motivating factor to combine the methods of Hoffman with the feed direction of Debrunner to derive the matter of claim 1. Hoffman teaches a method of applying edges to a calendar. Debrunner, on the other hand, teaches a method of pressing a book spine onto a book block that had been previously adjoined by glue. One skilled in the art would not have looked to the teachings within the book binding art utilizing a glue to develop a system of binding a sheet of paper with a crimping and bonding technique as claimed herein.

Applicants respectfully urge that claim 1 be found allowable over the §103 rejection of Hoffman in view of Debrunner. Moreover, because claims 1, 4-8, 10, 11 and 25 depend upon a claim 1 now considered to be patentable over Hoffman and Debrunner, Applicant's respectfully submit that these claims are likewise allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and remarks given herein, Applicants respectfully believe this case is in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes any detailed language of the claims requires further discussion, the Examiner is respectfully asked to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter may be promptly resolved. The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

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Office Action mailed July 17, 2007
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Applicants are of the opinion that no additional fee is due as a result of this Amendment. If any charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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